(d) and (e) This Ministry has no report that the State Government has diverted grant-in-aid for other purposes.

(f) It is proposed to implement a Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme (PCIS) charging actuarial rates of premia, and covering all farmers and all crops (except fruit crops), in one district of every State, preferably in low unit areas.

(g) A Comprehensive Programme for the development of coconut has been formulated for implementation during the VIII Plan, with the following projects:

I. Production and distribution of planting material,

II. Area expansion under coconut,

III. Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement.

IV. Integrated control of leaf eating caterpillar.

Loss of genetic resources in vegetables

4433. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is serious threat to loss of genetic resources for vegetable etc. due to present day development on high yielding varieties as has been brought cut by fowler and Mooney in their 1190 beek published by Lutterworth Press and quoted by food Magzine London in February, 1993 issue and by SAFE publication from London by Dr. Robbin Jonkins in November, 1992;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many vegetables, there has been a loss as high 92 per cent of traditional varieties of tomatoes, sunflower;

(c) whether it is also a fact that for wheat and rice also leading HYV have more or less threatend existence of indigenous varieties; and

(d) what is the corresponding picture in this country and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) We are in a better position so far as preservation of genetic variability of crop plants is concerned. The facilities for short as well as long term storage of germplasm have been built and are continuously being strengthened.

Organic farming

4434. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen an article on Organic farming in the Economic Times of 25th July, 1993, which raises many important issues and if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether it is correct that even though many important foreign countries are promoting sustainable agriculture in various forms our response is slow and tardy;

(c) whether it is also correct that as per trials the production in many farm protects could be comparable to the chemical farming;

(d) whether Government will promote

biological control and use of bio-pesticides in the country; and

(e) whether a Task Force will be set up for promoting sustainable agriculture with representatives for voluntary groups such as Society of Citizen Concerns, New Delhi which have been promoting it through writings and reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To meet the demand of growing population, food production per unit area could only be achieved by adopting improved crop production technology of *which use of fertiliser is one of the major* components. However, the Government is promoting the concept of balanced and integrated use of fertiliser including organic manures, bio-fertilisers, etc.

(c) In the intensive cropping system, exodus of plant nutrients could only be replenished by use of fertilisers. Use of organic manures, bio-fertiliser, etc. is also promoted as a complimentary source of nutrients.

(d) Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which includes biological methods and need based use of chemical pesticide in a safe and judicious manner.

(e) Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a technical group to go into the viability of organic farming where a voluntary organisation is being represented as a member.

Problems faced by farmers

4435. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report, Grey Future—Green Fields from Greepeace London reviewed in Economic Times dated 27th June, 1993;

(b) whether it is a fact that the problems actually facing the western countries are already here or in the pipeline and if so, corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken;

(c) whether Government are aware that for a variety of reasons including health of the farmers and the soil the world over there is movement towards Sustainable Agriculture; and

(d) whether large number of farmers in USA and Europe as per reports have turned organic which appeared in the Economic Times of 25th July, 1993 and if so, what is the number and hectares of land covered by similar farmers in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir, The Government of India has been Economic Times dated 27.6.1993 reviewing the report Grey Future—Green Fields.

(b) The Government is aware of emerging problems facing sustainable agriculture. Steps are being taken to promote integrated nutrient management, including use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers. Government is also propagating Integrated Pest Management including use of bio-pesticides.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, no statistics is being maintaned separately for the area covered and the number o formers adopting organic farming in India.

Sustainable agricuture

4436. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the excellent report brought out by U. S. General Accounting Office counterpart of CAG on the subject of Sustain-